Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 EB-07 SP-02 L-02 INR-07 PRS-01

SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR:PW APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

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O 101938Z APR 75 ZFF4 FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 081879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, HO

SUBJECT: UB PAYMENTS - GOH INVESTIGATING COMMISSION

REFERENCE: TEGUCIGALPA 1383

1. RYAN AND LAZAR CALLED GELSTHORPE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL AND ADVISED HIM OF SUBSTANCE. GELSTHORPE INDICATED HE WAS INCLINED TO ACCEPT EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT PER PARA 4 REFTEL. HOWEVER, IN DISCUS-SING ALTERNATIVES WITH HIM HE AGREED WITH OUR SUGGESTION THAT, RATHER THAN SIMPLY INVITE COMMISSION TO MEET WITH HIM IN BOSTON OR OFFER WRITTEN DEPOSITION, IT WOULD BE ADVAN-TAGEOUS TO OFFER TO MEET COMMISSION AT HALF-WAY POINT SUCH AS MIAMI OR NEW ORLEANS. WE SUGGESTED GELSTHORPE COULD PLEAD THAT PRESS OF BUSINESS PRECLUDED HIS BEING OUT OF CONTACT WITH OPERATIONS MAKING ESSENTIAL HIS IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS. WE EXPRESSED TO GELSTHORPE OUR UNDERSTANDING, BASED ON WALL STREET JOURNAL ACCOUNT OF POWERS OF COMMISSION, THAT GOH COMMIS-SION IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE TESTIMONY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THIS OFFER TO MEET THE COMMISSION HALF-WAY WOULD BE MORE IN ACCORD WITH OPEN, FORTHCOMING CONFIDENTIAL

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POSTURE UB ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH IN THIS MATTER.

- 2. IN PASSING WE NOTED THAT EMBASSY'S CABLE INDICATED LOPEZ BALBOA HAD GIVEN COMMISSION "NAMES" OF "HONDURAN OFFICIALS" INVOLVED. GELSTHORPE ASSURED US THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE NAME OF ONE OFFICIAL INVOLVED. THAT OFFICIAL IS MINECON BENNATON.
- 3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER REPORTING ON "STRIDENT VITUPERATIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS" DESCRIBED PARA 4 REFTEL PLUS ANY OTHER INDICATIONS OF PUBLIC OR GOH OPINION AS YOUR VERY CROWDED TIME PERMITS.

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